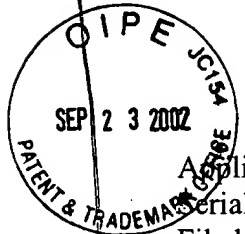


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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Donald Dieter Frantz, et al.
Serial No. : 09/703,031
Filed : October 31, 2000
Title : A FLEXIBLE INSTRUMENT

Art Unit : 3737
Examiner : Shah, Devaang

RECEIVED

SEP 26 2002

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

RESPONSE

In response to the action mailed June 18, 2002, please amend the application as follows:

In the specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 27 with the following rewritten paragraph:

One or more advantages can be provided from the above. As the three-dimensional position of the distal end of the flexible instrument is directly read, it is not subject to extrapolation errors. Accordingly, the propagation and extrapolation errors associated with calculating the three-dimensional position of the intermediate portion of the flexible instrument are minimized. By directly reading the three-dimensional position of the distal tip of the flexible instrument, the path of the intermediate portion of the flexible instrument can be more accurately plotted. Further, as the flexible instrument combines directly read and indirectly read position sensors, the three-dimensional position of the flexible instrument can be accurately plotted, even if the accuracy of one of the sensors is compromised. The details of one or more embodiments of the invention are set forth in the accompanying drawings and the description below. Other features, objects, and advantages of the invention will be apparent from the description and drawings, and from the claims.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY FIRST CLASS MAIL

I hereby certify under 37 CFR §1.8(a) that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage on the date indicated below and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

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September 18, 2002

Susan R. Jones

Susan R. Jones